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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,200	03/13/2001	Stephen H. Pettigrew	PETIP001A	4219

28875 7590 06/11/2002

SILICON VALLEY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
P.O. BOX 721120
SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120

EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3711	

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/808,200	PETTIGREW ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Alvin A. Hunter	3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 20-38 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 38 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 20,23,24,26-29,32,33 and 35-37 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 21,22,25,30,31 and 34 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on April 2, 2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,459 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20, 26-29 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dinh (USPN 5564707).

Dinh discloses a golf ball for properly aligning a golf ball, a golfer, and a golf club relative to an intended path of travel (See Abstract). The golf ball comprises a ball-travel indicator, a ball-to-ground indicator, a foot-to-ball indicator, and putter-alignment indicator (See Abstract). The ball-travel indicator has an arrow on it and points to the direction in which the ball is intended to travel (See Column 3, lines 3 through 7). In front of the ball-travel indicator are a series of X's that represent print on the golf ball and can be used to further aid in "aiming" the ball (See Column 1, lines 8 through 13). The foot-to-ball indicator is parallel to the ball-travel indicator and provides the player with a reference as to how to align his/her body relative to the ball's intended path (See

Column 1, lines 19 through 30). A putter alignment indicator is perpendicular to the ball-travel indicator and provides a reference for positioning a putter for stroking the golf ball. The ball-to-ground indicator promotes placement of the ball on a green (See Column 54 through 65). Methods of using the golf are implied within the above (See Column 3, lines 66 and 67; and Column 4, lines 1 through 54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23, 24, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinh (USPN 5564707) in view of Inoue (USPN 4706958).

Dinh does not disclose a marking where the ball should be hit. Inoue discloses a golf ball capable of being stroked in the direction in which the center of gravity of the ball is made to coincide with the center (See Abstract). The ball comprises marks on the surface to identify hit and lead points, which are used to identify where the ball should be struck (See Abstract and Column 2, lines 36 through 68; and Column 3, lines 1 through 6). The hit points are located on a diameter line passing through the center of the ball, and the lead point are located on a diameter line perpendicular to the line in which the hit points are located (See Column 2, lines 36 through 48). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to

combine the hit and lead points of Inoue to the invention of Dinh, in order to provide the user with a club contact reference point to show where the golf ball should be struck.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 38 is allowed.

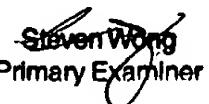
Claims 21, 22, 25, 30, 31, and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is 703-306-5693. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell, can be reached on (703) 308-2126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.


Steven Wong
Primary Examiner